

**House Resolution**

**No. 27**

**Introduced by Assembly Members Achadjian, Charles Calderon,  
Gatto, and Portantino**

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April 12, 2012

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House Resolution No. 27—Relative to the Armenian genocide and human rights.

- 1 WHEREAS, The Armenian Genocide of 1915–1923 was the
- 2 first genocide of the 20th century, in which 1.5 million men,
- 3 women, and children lost their lives at the hands of the Turkish
- 4 Ottoman Empire; and
- 5 WHEREAS, In their 3,000 year historic homeland in Asia
- 6 Minor, Armenians were subjected to severe and unjust persecution
- 7 and brutality by the Turkish rulers of the Ottoman Empire before
- 8 and after the turn of the 20th century, including widespread acts

1 of destruction and murder during the period from 1894 to 1896,  
2 inclusive, and again in 1909; and

3 WHEREAS, The massacre of the Armenians constituted one of  
4 the most atrocious violations of human rights in the history of the  
5 world; and

6 WHEREAS, Adolph Hitler, in persuading his army commanders  
7 that the merciless persecution and killing of Jews, Poles, and other  
8 people would bring no retribution, declared, “Who, after all, speaks  
9 today of the annihilation of the Armenians?”; and

10 WHEREAS, Unlike other people and governments that have  
11 admitted and denounced the abuses and crimes of predecessor  
12 regimes, and despite the overwhelming proof of genocidal intent,  
13 the Republic of Turkey has inexplicably and adamantly denied the  
14 occurrence of the crimes against humanity committed by the  
15 Ottoman and young Turk rulers, and those denials compound the  
16 grief of the few remaining survivors of the atrocities, desecrate  
17 the memory of the victims, and cause continuing pain to the  
18 descendants of the victims; and

19 WHEREAS, Leaders of nations with strategic, commercial, and  
20 cultural ties to the Republic of Turkey should be reminded of their  
21 duty to encourage Turkish officials to cease efforts to distort facts  
22 and deny the history of events surrounding the Armenian Genocide;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, The accelerated level and scope of denial and  
25 revisionism, coupled with the passage of time and the fact that  
26 very few survivors remain who can serve as reminders of  
27 indescribable brutality and tormented lives, compel a sense of  
28 urgency in efforts to solidify recognition of historical truth; and

29 WHEREAS, By consistently remembering and forcefully  
30 condemning the atrocities committed against the Armenians, and  
31 honoring the survivors as well as other victims of similar heinous  
32 conduct, we guard against repetition of such acts of genocide and  
33 provide the American public with a greater understanding of its  
34 heritage; and

35 WHEREAS, There is continued concern about the welfare of  
36 Christians in the Republic of Turkey, their right to worship and  
37 practice their faith freely, and the legal status and condition of  
38 churches and other places of worship, monasteries, schools,  
39 hospitals, monuments, relics, holy sites, and other religious  
40 properties in the Republic of Turkey; and

1 WHEREAS, This measure would provide that the Legislature  
2 deplores the persistent, ongoing efforts by any person in this  
3 country or abroad to deny the historical fact of the Armenian  
4 Genocide; and

5 WHEREAS, California is home to the largest  
6 Armenian-American population in the United States, and  
7 Armenians living in California have enriched our state through  
8 their leadership in business, agriculture, academia, government,  
9 and the arts; and

10 WHEREAS, The State of California has been at the forefront  
11 of encouraging and promoting a curriculum relating to human  
12 rights and genocide in order to empower future generations to  
13 prevent recurrence of the crime of genocide; now, therefore, be it

14 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the  
15 Assembly commends its conscientious educators who teach about  
16 human rights and genocide; and be it further

17 *Resolved*, That the Assembly hereby designates the week of  
18 April 18 to April 24, 2012, inclusive, as “California Week of  
19 Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide of 1915–1923”; and be  
20 it further.

21 *Resolved*, That the Assembly commemorates California Week  
22 of Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide through the Armenian  
23 Genocide Commemorative Project; and be it further

24 *Resolved*, That the Assembly respectfully calls upon the  
25 Congress and the President of the United States to act likewise  
26 and to formally and consistently recognize and reaffirm the  
27 historical truth that the atrocities committed against the Armenian  
28 people constituted genocide; and be it further

29 *Resolved*, That the Assembly calls upon the Republic of Turkey  
30 to acknowledge the facts of the Armenian Genocide and to work  
31 toward a just resolution; and be it further

32 *Resolved*, That the Assembly calls on the United States President  
33 and Congress to urge the government of the Republic of Turkey  
34 to honor its obligations under international treaties and human  
35 rights law to do both of the following:

36 (a) End all forms of religious discrimination.

37 (b) Allow the rightful church and lay owners of Christian church  
38 properties, without hindrance or restriction, to organize and  
39 administer prayer services, religious education, clerical training,  
40 appointments, and succession, religious community gatherings,

1 social services, including ministry to the needs of the poor and  
2 infirm, and other religious activities; and be it further  
3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
4 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
5 States, Members of the United States Congress, the Governor, and  
6 the Turkish Ambassador to the United States.

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